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MOLINA PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES ONE STOP EMPOWERMENT AND LEARNING CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

New Children's Medical Hub Initiates Transformation of County Campus

EL MONTE, CA (May 26, 2009) - Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina begins to transform a county campus into a "One Stop" Empowerment and Learning Center for children and youths with the dedication of the new LAC+USC Satellite Medical Hub at 11:30AM, Wednesday, May 27 at 4074 North Durfee Avenue in El Monte.

Project partners joining Molina at the dedication include medical hub founder Dr. Jan Astrid Heger, LAC+USC Medical Center CEO Peter Delgado, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) director Trish Ploehn, the County's Department of Mental Health and Chief Executive Office, City of El Monte, YMCA and Alma Family Services.

The comprehensive medical hub and "safe haven" will be staffed by a team of health professionals co-located at one site -- providing quality medical care for children in the child welfare system. It is designed from Dr. Heger's nationally recognized model which tracks the health and well-being of children in the system. In addition to medical and forensic assessments, mental health screenings and crisis intervention for children will be provided. The fiscal year 2009-10 annual budget for the medical hub is \$550,000.

Molina said, "We are dreaming big for our children, and the new children's medical hub marks the beginning of a significant transformation of a county campus - where foster youth will now have access to comprehensive health and social services from one location. It represents new hope for the children we are responsible for protecting against child abuse and neglect -- in a safe and welcoming environment."

Plans for Services:

- . From Medical Hub - children will be walked to the campus' cottages for special needs' services evaluation.

Mental health services to developmentally delayed clients and their families as well as training and advocacy in conjunction with the local Regional Center.

- . Pre-school for special needs children.
- . Two dental suites at the Medical Hub for dental screenings and treatment.
- . The YWCA of Greater Los Angeles and Job Corps training for careers in nursing, dentistry, and other health related fields.
- . Universal pre-school on site.
- . Green job technology training for Job Corps youths.
- . A Culinary Institute.
- . L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start program to train future teachers and child care workers in child development careers.

"Through the medical hub partnership, DCFS ensures a child's safety - including their physical, mental and emotional health - is given the highest

priority. The addition of this new resource enhances our ability to ensure timely and quality medical care for all children in the child welfare system,” said DCFS director Trish Ploehn.